

2 May 1979

NOTE FOR:   
Acting Director of Security

FROM:

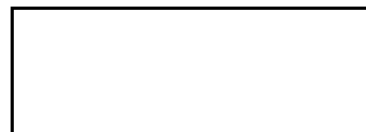
I think that the SECOM's Investigative Standards Working Group will be able to profitably serve the Chairman in collecting information about DCID 1/14 investigations and can justify the desirability and need to continue them in any hearing called by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI). But there are indications that the HPSCI interest will broaden into inquiry about general investigation procedures for access to National Foreign Intelligence. I base this on the wide range of interest expressed at CIA, NSA and DIA by Betsey Keyes and Latimer's request for "general" discussions. If this is an accurate perception, then it may be well to start now collecting data on CIA investigative authorities and procedures.

From talking to Betsey Keyes I feel that the inquiry will go right down to basics as to the reason for CIA's procedures, the philosophy behind them, the variables at play, the cost (in great detail that can be documented), the adjudicative procedure, the appeals procedure and the justification for all of these. This last point may well be a crucial factor. We should not, therefore, prepare a simple description of what we do, but should prepare to answer questions why we do it and why we do it the way we do.

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This would imply to me a rather soul searching exercise that leads to adequate justification of why security investigations cover some of the areas that are viewed in other departments as primarily Office of Personnel prerogatives - i.e., What do we mean when we say that people are turned down for employment with the Agency based on an Office of Security adjudication that the individual has "character defects" or on the grounds of "integrity?" (Titles used on two categories in recently prepared statistics on turn-downs). What is our authority and justification for covering the general area of "suitability" rather than limiting investigations to questions of loyalty and security matters? We had better prepare carefully to answer questions on our drug policy and homosexuality. And we had better not fail to have a solid position on unconsented collection of information about U.S. persons.

I don't mean that we should view the HPSCI inquiry with concern. Indeed it may provide an opportunity to get a hearing on some of our concerns and offer opportunity to petition for rectification of what we perceive to be weaknesses in the investigative process of other agencies. We might be able to shoot for support for a concept of common standards, adjudications and appeals.



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